

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: KATO, et al.

Filed: January 22, 2001

For: VACUUM PROCESSING APPARATUS AND OPERATING  
METHOD THEREFORPRELIMINARY AMENDMENTAssistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

January 22, 2001

Sir:

Please amend the above-identified application, prior to  
examination thereof, as follows:IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows:

Page 1, delete lines 1-8 in their entirety, and  
substitute therefor the following:

--This application is a Divisional application of  
application Serial No. 09/461,432, filed December 16, 1999,  
which is a Continuation application of application Serial No.  
09/177,495, filed October 23, 1998, <sup>now pat# 6,012,235</sup> which is a Continuation  
application of application Serial No. 09/061,062, filed April  
16, 1998, <sup>new pat# 5,950,330</sup> which is a Continuation application of application  
Serial No. 08/882,731, filed June 26, 1997, <sup>new pat# 5,784,799</sup> which is a  
Divisional application of application Serial No. 08/593,870,  
filed January 30, 1996, <sup>new pat# 5,661,913</sup> which is a Continuing application of  
application Serial No. 08/443,039, filed May 17, 1995, <sup>new pat# 5,553,396</sup> which  
is a Divisional application of application Serial No.

G. Heron  
#2/pre  
amendment  
7/26/2001

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